

**Springs Municipal Advisory Council
Minutes of the Meeting
December 3, 2019**

1. Call to Order 6:30

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Lely read Mission Statement.

Roll Call: Chair Lely

Present: Iturri, Willett, Paz, Conlan, Goldman, Lombard, Wheatley

Absent: Anderson

- 2. Approval of Minutes of October 22, 2019.** Councilperson Goldman moved to approve Minutes. Seconded by Councilperson Paz. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment

(Limited to consent calendar and items not appearing on the agenda)

Seth Dolinsky reported on successful Grange pancake breakfast with 150 attendees. Upcoming events: 1. Deck the Halls, Fri Dec 13th, 2-6pm, cookies baked to be delivered to Meals On Wheels and FISH, & screening of *The Grinch* at 7pm; 2. Dec 15th, Sun 9am-1pm, Holiday pop up market.

- 3.1 Special Announcement:** Councilperson Paz has tendered his resignation from the MAC and La Luz as of December 31st. He will not be eligible to serve on the Springs MAC due to relocating. Acknowledgements were bestowed.

Public Comment reopened

Sheana Davis inquired whether the Donald Street project was an agenda item; hearing it was not, she decided to wait to comment at next meeting.

4. Community Disaster Preparedness Presentation and Study Session

Nancy Brown – County of Sonoma Community Preparedness Program Manager

Councilmembers repositioned into audience

Power Point Presentation

Recommendation: Brainstorm on definition of “a resilient community” and create plan.

Group did two exercises on value of collaboration and planning.

Discussion on “Value of Community Resilience - building blocks/basic components: economic, social, knowledge/skills, physical landscape/assets, cultural.”

Resilience requires resources for a community to overcome a disruption or disaster.

Economic resources: tourism/SMI, small businesses, private sector, public sector of health care, schools, county government. Bus Maintenance Yard. Vacation rentals. Real Estate.

Construction. Small farmers, vineyards, wineries.

Social resources: to maintain and enhance cohesion of social fiber which is key: Friends, relatives, neighbors, community meeting places like the Grange, social media, churches, nonprofits, schools, farmers market.

Knowledge/skill resources: evacuation routes, communication platforms, multi lingual notices,

first aid preparedness, emergency kits, know vulnerable populations, animal safety, transportation, shelter.

Physical landscape/asset resources: earthquake standards, older buildings to be upgraded, narrow roads compromise escape routes, defensible space, food/water supplies, brush to maintain, trees to manage

Cultural Resources: viewpoint for everyone to look out for each other. May require a cultural shift. Build bridges to Latino community. Trust in messengers i.e. institutional, etc. Need more community centers/safe shelters. Volunteers. County did survey on website about how people managed in the fires. Question: why is Red Cross authorization required for a shelter?

Establish current status:

Economic strengths: best – tourism, small businesses. To develop: small business, affordable housing, increase wages, rebuilding w/ sustainable methods, improve permitting process, infrastructure for parking.

Social strengths: To develop: library, plaza, meeting areas, green space, cultural centers, literacy, blend communities. Need more locally owned and served businesses.

Knowledge/Skill strengths: access, educational pieces from county, Nixle alerts, SoCoAlert, WEA (wireless emergency alerts), Pulsepoint, Federal systems for TV & radio

Physical Landscape/asset strengths: There is a county “shelter committee” available to help. Grants becoming available – for things like generator transfer switches for businesses. PGE may be funding some projects. Develop emergency supply stations. Additional escape routes.

Cultural strengths: teach and encourage community inclusion, everyone helping. Bilingual social messaging.

Recommendations: *Schedule meetings with w/ MAC, County, community groups to build priority list of easy, harder, long term planning of goals.*

*Reminder: Evaluate ideas and apply to a timeline - **resilience takes gradual development***
Contact Nancy for more free info. Nancy.A.Brown@sonoma-county.org

Public Comment

Tom Conlon recommended a program he saw on county’s website re emergency preparedness useful to define vulnerabilities in neighborhoods - Sebastopol community mapping activity of neighborhoods, in groups of 20-30 people; suggested showing Netflix film (40 minutes) “Fire in Paradise” at Grange & partner w/ county for an awareness event on evacuation topics. Noted there is no evacuation route in Springs behind SMI, using W. Thompson. Suggested a bicycle bridge across the creek as an evacuation route.

Council Comments

Vice Chair Iturri asked for clarification on next steps.

Chair Lely and Liz will summarize meeting’s ideas/content.

Chair Lely suggested forming an Ad Hoc on Emergency Preparedness.

Councilpersons Iturri and Lombard agreed, called for community alliances for engagement and education, networking.

5. Develop Action Plans

Brief discussion of replacement for Councilperson Paz. Applications have been submitted to Supervisor Gorin, who will appoint.

Discussion on *Action Plan on Community Outreach Festival*

Liz recommended defining structure/template, make a generic action plan. February suggested

for month. Identify theme. Location. Date. Time. Goal/Outcomes. Participants. Communication. Outreach. Presentation Materials. Logistics. Sound. Visuals. Refreshments.

Take advantage of info from successful County Preparedness Event “Sonoma Ready Day.”

Maybe call event “Springs Ready Day.”

Responsibilities: Ad Hoc with community input (Ad Hoc not created yet). Presenters.

Funding/sponsors. Contacting vendors. Potential Partners. Organizing neighborhoods. Flyers.

No Public Comment.

Motion to approve by Councilperson Conlan, Seconded by Councilperson Lombard. *Action Plans on Community Outreach Festival* approved unanimously.

6. Ad Hoc Committee Updates

Chair Lely recommended two minute reports.

Councilperson Lombard, Ad Hoc - *Community Engagement/Outreach Strategy*

Reprinted from Report: “Action: Target a specific type of community for contact. Ex—the business community, community and neighborhood groups, faith-based community, non-profits, schools, law enforcement and public service, media, interest (identity) groups, community service organizations. Or—pick one particular group/organization from five or six of these groups. Concentrate your efforts. Add more as the first groups are contacted.

Action: Refine a presentation to make to any group to communicate the purpose and goals of the SMAC. Keep in mind that modification will probably be needed to meet the interests of the group being addressed. Prepare a brief written description to be put in the announcement for the meeting of the group to describe basic information about the SMAC.

Action: Contact the group to offer and (hopefully) schedule a presentation and a “listening session” to hear the concerns of group members. Offer to send a brief description about the SMAC for whatever form of announcement they send to their members.

Action: Develop a list of referrals to county services to offer to interested persons. The “pothole” website, and information on vacation rental complaints are two that come to mind.

Action: During the meeting, make notes of concerns mentioned to bring back to the SMAC, or to Supervisor Gorin’s office, if appropriate. Take contact information of interested parties, in order to inform about future events.

Action: Maintain connections with contacted groups and group leaders—emails, event notices and other modes as discovered.

Outcomes: Multiple small to medium sized groups contacted over the course of a year. Residents informed about the SMAC and about the county government. Information gathered for the SMAC about concerns and interests of local residents. New lines of communication created. Overall a deeper intimacy with the community.

Measures: Numbers for group members, groups contacted. Metrics on continuing contacts.”

Councilperson Conlan, Ad Hoc - *Educate MAC & Community on Planning & Development Issues.*

Action: recognition of need to understand the foundational economic underpinnings of the Springs. Relates to building resiliency in community. Data is not available. Springs Specific Plan requires understanding of Springs current financial health. Needs to be open and transparent. Would be able to better understand opportunities and threats, more effectively set priorities, find essential partners, seek grants, set timetables, development initiatives being sought or being offered. 1. What is annual MAC budget for Springs area? 2. Create a CFP (Comprehensive Financial Plan) of entire Springs MAC geography 3. Review of financial instruments used by other communities that contribute to economic development and improved community

services. Need to identify various partners, such as those included in Springs Specific Plan. Ad Hoc, MAC should meet w/ various stakeholders to provide them with background and list of MAC approved questions, invite community to present. Educate the community on the role of the MAC so people can voice their concerns on the Springs.

Discussion on Ellen's report.

On County website there is a document: "Where do your tax dollars go?" This kind of analysis could be useful. How to set priorities and make decisions?

Liz, if the information is available, it can be used, but not likely to be able to pay to research. MAC could spend their budget on the research.

Question: Does each Supervisor work w/ the Budget Dept. for allocation of funds for their districts? Perhaps Springs tax revenue info (sales, property, hospitality, TOT) would be available. Also costs of providing emergency services, police, any other county expenses for Springs.

Question: Is information available on MAC budget?

Liz, yes, that is available.

Chair Lely suggested acquiring this financial info for next meeting in January 2020.

Recommendation to target questions for presenters to Spring's needs for efficient use of time. Summarize what the questions are, be prepared.

Councilperson Willett and Chair Lely, Ad Hoc - *Plaza Implementation Plan*, nothing to report.

Public Comment

Tom Conlon agreed with points in discussion; also suggested continuing efforts to discover and recognize community identity; continue efforts on acquiring county data - may find it in public record, persevere to obtain.

7. Community Event Announcements

Seth's events; Dec 13th and 15th Holiday Market Place 9am -1pm.

Councilperson Goldman, Planning Commission, Thursday 1pm, 2550 Ventura Ave., Santa Rosa, additional meeting on Springs Specific Plan. Question why meetings are in middle of the day.

Chair Lely, also will be a SVCAC January meeting on Springs Specific Plan, 6:30pm. Ex-Officio Planning Commissioners are on SVCAC.

Liz clarified Thursday PC meeting was on request of neighborhood. It is not the regular Planning Commission meeting on the Springs Specific Plan. That is still to be announced.

Councilperson Conlan commented that after five meetings for specific neighborhood, the SSP has not been before the MAC, after requesting it for a year. Clarified she is describing the final workshop which would explain the elements of the Plan. MAC hasn't seen the final Plan.

Springs Community Alliance meeting, Dec 4th, potluck, at Grange, election for new Executive Committee, take nominations, 6:30 start. Presentation at 7pm.

8. Consideration of Future Agenda Items

January MAC meeting on 28th: No elections.

Councilperson Paz suggested a future agenda item –a presentation by Sheriff Dept/Director of County Law Enforcement Office, re community petition for ballot initiative to suggest changes to Law Enforcement Office and how it conducts law enforcement accountability, with goal of building community trust. Omar and Maite served on Community Law Enforcement Task Force.

Councilperson Conlan, Springs Specific Plan on January agenda? Liz unsure, will research. TBD.

Chair Lely, SVCAC meeting the week before, which may be a joint meeting?

Question: what was original format for final SSP meeting in Springs, promised a year ago, before the MAC was created, thought it was to be a workshop. Original concept was to bring it back to the community to present final plan, get responses. This format presentation needs to happen. Liz unsure what "final meeting?" Unaware of the promised meeting. Liz will research, check the meetings timeline. Chair Lely, CAC will approve Plan w/ Public Comment before it goes to Planning Commission. Will be second Hearing.

Councilperson Lombard, SVCAC has Springs residents but doesn't represent just the Springs, it represents the Valley, agreed it should come to Springs first. Clarification: SVCAC can approve or disapprove the Plan? Chair Lely, correct.

Vice Chair Iturri, could spend entire January meeting agenda on SSP, suggested instead focusing on Community Resilience, and then the Emergency Preparedness Event for February. Liz will review and inform.

Councilperson Conlan, agenda item suggestion re MAC election requirements if done as part of a General Election. Been told it's not possible and too costly.

9. Meeting Adjourned unanimously at 8:43.

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Springs Municipal Advisory Council after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Board of Supervisors' Office located at 575 Administration Drive, Room 100-AI, Santa Rosa, CA, during normal business hours

Web Links: County of Sonoma: www.sonoma-county.org select Boards and Commission

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